insight



IONOR UARD



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

The firing party stands ready to give a 21-gun salute.

Giving one last glimpse of Air Force honor

By LANORRIS ASKEW lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Theirs is one of the most profound missions in the Air Force. And although their call of duty has nothing to do with aircraft, they leave a lasting impact on each and every life they touch.

They are the men and women of the Robins

Honor Guard.

of goodwill

toward those

who recently

helped them

complete reno-

vations to their

Robins Honor

facility, The

Guard gave a

In a gesture

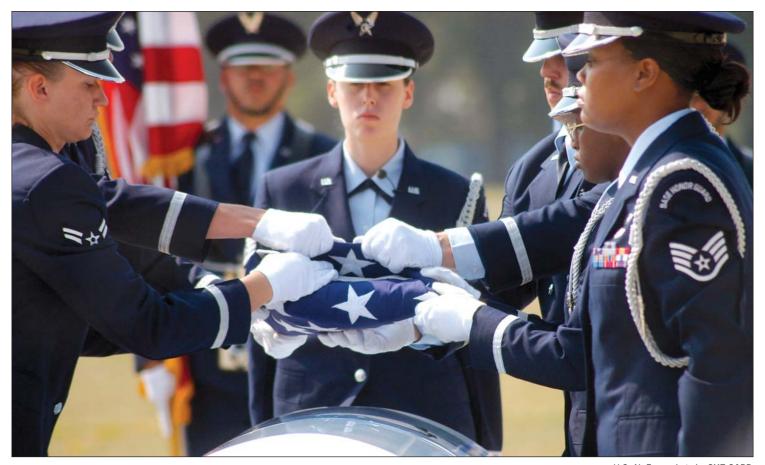


Master Sgt.
Gary Scott is the Honor

the Honor full display of Guard Manager. what they do Sept. 14 during their open house and ribbon cutting ceremony at Building 364.

Made up of a cadre of 22 airmen, their mission is to provide military funeral service honors for Air Force retirees and veterans. Those honors are given with surgical precision, and from the pallbearers to the firing party they each take great pride in what they

Staff Sgt. Shannon Lampo said her job as base Honor Guard trainer gives her a chance to



The pallbearer detail folds the flag during Robins' Honor Guard funeral demonstration Sept. 14.

watch Airmen who come through the unit grow into leaders before her eyes.

"This job is the best job anyone could ever ask for," she said. "You take troops who don't know anything, and you build them up and give them confidence. Some of these Airmen have never been put in a leadership position before, and you build their confidence up so much that they think they can go out and start leading other troops

ROBINS HONOR GUARD COVERAGE AREA

The Robins Honor Guard, made up of members from the 78th Air Base Wing, 5th Combat Communications Group, 19th Air Refueling Group, 402nd Maintenance Wing and the 116th Air Control Wing, covers a 70,000 square mile territory including parts of Tennessee and Georgia and two counties in North Carolina. They provide military honors at approximately 600 funerals each year.

at their own unit."

She added that the biggest pleasure is what they give to the families of the deceased.

"Providing military honors for

the family is sometimes the last thing they see of the military," she said. "For some it's the first time they've ever seen the military if they met the deceased after U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

retirement or discharge."

Master Sgt. Gary Scott, Honor

Guard manager agreed.

"It's an indescribable feeling," he said. "It's very emotional, and it gives you a sense of pride and fulfillment of duty. This is the most fulfillment I've received in my 17 years of being in the military. Honoring those who served before me and who earned me the right to wear this uniform today."

The Robins Honor Guard pro-

vides funeral services for veterans, those who served less than 20 years with either an honorable or general discharge; retirees, those who served more than 20 years and Active-duty military. Veterans receive a three-party honor guard, retirees receive a ten-party honor guard and active duty members receive a twenty-person funeral complete with the colors, a firing party and pall-

bearers.

According to Sergeant
Lampo, the Honor Guard isn't a
permanent duty assignment.
Instead 11 new Airmen rotate in
every 45 days. During those 45
days they have a week of training where they're taught their
sequence of movements after
which they train daily if no
funerals are scheduled.

"We use this time to sharpen motions and movements," said Sergeant Lampo "It's an everyday process."

Col. Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing vice commander, cut the ribbon on the updated facility and called it a fitting tribute to the ambassadors of the Air Force.

"The people we had out there today rendering honors do that rain or shine," she said. "They do it with perfection and precision every day thanks to the efforts of the honor guard leaders and the squadrons that make them available to provide the honor guard capability at Robins.

"Considering what they do for us it's fitting that we now give them a world-class facility from which to operate and train." **2B** ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ September 23, 2005

TODAY

All-you-can-eat catfish and the fixings are served from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Officers' Club. For more information, call 926-2670.

Catfish on the curb is offered Fridays from 5-7 p.m. at the enlisted club. To-go dinners include catfish, coleslaw or potato salad and hush puppies for \$5.95. For more information, call the club at 926-4515.

Enjoy Thunder Alley bowling every Friday and Saturday from 9 - 11 p.m. at the Robins Lanes Bowling Center. Friday is family night. Children 12 years old and younger bowl for \$5; over 12 years old, \$10. On Saturdays everyone bowls for \$10 per person. This includes all the games you can bowl in two hours and shoes. For more information call 926-2112.

Get back in top form for the new bowling season by bowling Monday – Friday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Cost is \$3 for three games. For more information call 926-2112.

The Joint Forces Bingo, located in the east wing of the Enlisted Club, has new surprises and door prizes. The hours are Tuesday through Friday with games starting at 7:15 p.m. Games begin at 2:45 p.m. on Sundays. Enjoy bar bingo five nights a week at 6 p.m. Anyone with an active duty, reserve, guard, retired, Department of Defense or family member identification card is eligible to play. The entry fee is free to all Robins' club members, bona fide guests and active duty or retired widow club members, and \$5 for eligible non-club members. For more information call 926-4515 or Teresa Resta at 926-1303.

SATURDAY

Robins Hispanic Heritage Committee presents the Hispanic Spectacular Cultural Show Sept. 24 at the Museum of Aviation amphitheater, 6-10 p.m. Enjoy a night of cultural music and live performances including live mariachi, singing and dancing. Bring your lawn chairs, snacks and beverages (no alcohol). This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.robins.af.mil/heritage, or call Louie Barrientes at 222-1376.

A family bike hike "Poker Run" best hand wins is slated for Sept. 24 at 10 a.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

Get your boots and hats and mosey on down to the Robins Officers' Club for Country & Western fun Sept. 24 starting at 6 p.m. Western dinner special includes sweet jalapeno glazed roasted half chicken, chuckwagon com, garlic red skin mashed potatoes, smoked bell pepper combread, salad bar, peach cobbler and beverage. Cost is \$12.95 for members; \$13.95 for nonmembers. Bestdressed cowboy and cowgirl and yodeling contests will be held. A country and western band will be entertaining from 7 – 11 p.m. For more information call 926-2670.

Come out and enjoy an active duty and military retiree special of 18 holes of golf on Saturdays in September. Cost is \$18 and includes 18 holes of golf, car and green fee after 11 a.m. For more information call Pine Oaks Golf Course at 926-4103.

SUNDAY

The Officers' Club brunch is from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. with all-you-care-to-enjoy breakfast and dinner entrees. Cost is \$9.95 for members and \$11.95 for nonmembers. For more information, call 926-2670.

MONDAY

Family Night Bingo will be held at the Smith Community Center Sept. 26. Doors open at 5 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. Cost is \$3 per package (limit three packages per person). Every child leaves with a door prize. This is a 3C event. For more information call civilian recreation at 926-1303.

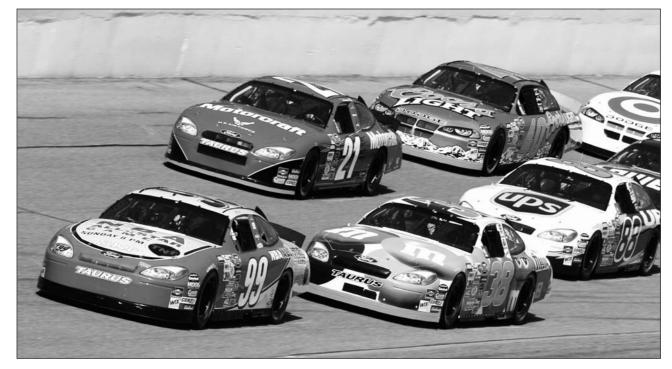
Line dance lessons are held every Monday from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Smith Community Center ballroom. Cost is \$30 per person, and class size is limited to 40 students. Must be 16 years and older to participate. For more information, call 926-2105.

TUESDAY

Ultimate Frisbee pick-up games will be held each Tuesday beginning at 5 p.m. on the parade grounds.

Games are open to men and women of all skill levels. Bring cleats and a white and dark colored shirt. For more information call

Services spotlight



U.S. Air Force file photo by LARRY MCTIGHE

The Information, Tickets and Travel office has tickets for the Oct. 1 and 2 Food World 300 and UAW-Ford 500 at the Talladega Super Speedway in Talladega, Ala. Tickets located in the Talladega section are \$110. This is for both days and includes a pre-pit pass for Sunday's race. Tickets are also available for the Oct. 29 and 30 Easy Care Vehicle Service Contracts 200 and Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500 at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. Tickets are \$50 for both days and are located in the east turn section. For more information call ITT at 926-2945.

Ryan Stich at 222-4346.

Karaoke is held at the Enlisted Club every Tuesday from 8 p.m. - midnight with Bobbie. For more information, call 926-4515.

WEDNESDAY

World-wide talent auditions, the essential first step to become a Tops In Blue performer, will be held Sept. 28 at the Smith Community Center. Taped auditions begin at 5 p.m. and are open to all active duty Air Force members. Sign up by Sept. 26 by visiting or calling the community center at 926-2105.

Enjoy a couple's night out while playing a 9-hole scramble at the Pine Oaks Golf Course Sept. 28 at 5 p.m. Cost is \$25 per annual green fee couple or \$35 per non-annual green fee couple and includes green fee, golf car, food and prizes. For more information call the golf course at 926-4103.

Dance lessons are given every Wednesday from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Officers' Club. For more information, call 926-2670.

THURSDAY

Come out to the greatest after work party and ladies night out every Thursday from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Cost is \$2 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. For more information call 926-4515.

UPCOMING

A member guest day is slated for Pine Oaks Golf Course in September. Guests of annual green fee members pay green fees and receive free golf car. Member may invite up to three guests. For more information call 926-4103.

The Fit Factor kickoff will be held Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. – noon at the youth center. Events will include a climbing wall challenge, free throw contest, obstacle course, bike races and relays to include scooter, bouncy ball, and more. The school-age and teen center will conduct a fitness-a-thon to help raise funds for the Red Cross to contribute to Hurricane Katrina aid from 9 – 10 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided. This kickoff event is open to participants ages 5 and older. For more information, call the youth center at 926-2110.

The Information, Tickets and Travel office has tickets for the Oct. 1 - 2 Food World 300 and UAW-Ford 500 at the Talladega Super Speedway in Talladega, Ala. Tickets located in the Talladega section are \$110. This is for both days and includes a pre-pit pass for Sunday's race. Tickets are also available for the Oct. 29 - 30 Easy Care Vehicle Service Contracts 200 and Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500 at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. Tickets are \$50 for both days and are located in the east turn section. For more information call ITT at 926-2945.

The Hispanic Heritage Observation
Luncheon will be held Oct. 3 at the Enlisted
Club from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tickets are
\$10, and can be obtained at www.robins.af.
mil/heritage. Keynote speaker will be Dr.
Gabriel A. Rincon-Mora, engineer, scholar,
author, artist and inventor. He has written

three books, has 21 U.S. Patents, and has been published in numerous technical journals and conference publications. For more information, call Ed Armijo at 926-6301 or email edward.armijo@robins.af.mil.

The Family & Teen Talent Show will be held Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. on stage in the Smith Community Center ballroom. A required performers meeting will be held Oct. 4 from 4-6 p.m. and rehearsals will be held Oct. 5-7 beginning at 5 p.m. Performer categories include:

- ► Parent and youth team one parent and one youth
- ► Husband and wife team one eligible member and one spouse (both may be active duty)
- ► Children ages 3 to 5, solo or group; ages six to eight, solo or group
 - ▶ Pre-teens ages 9 to 12, solo or group
 ▶ Teens ages 13 to 15, solo vocal, solo

instrumental, solo performance specialty or group; ages 16 to 18, solo vocal, solo instrumental, solo performance specialty or group.

The minimum number of performers in a

family group is three. A parent and child combo may include family members outside their immediate family. Any size group is authorized with the age of the oldest child determining the category. For more information about the show and the required activities leading up to the event, please call the community center at 926-2105.

Georgia National Fair admission tickets for \$5.50 and ride sheets for \$10 are available at ITT. The fair is Oct. 7 – 16. For more information call ITT at 926-2945.

A fall classic will be held Oct. 6 – 8 at Pine Oaks Golf Course. Classic includes a 54-hole team event and individual event. Cost is \$100 per player and includes three days of golf with golf car, ice breaker, dinner, awards and prizes. Limited to the first 100 active duty and retired active duty players. There will be an additional 80 spots for all other eligible players. All players are automatically entered into the individual competition. Both events will run concurrently and will be conducted in accordance with USGA and local rules. To learn more call the golf course at 926-4103.

The Orgullo Hispano Luncheon will be held Oct. 14 at the Officers' Club from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Tickets can be obtained at www.robins.af. mil/heritage. Keynote speaker will be Col. Pedro Vasquez. For details and ticket price, contact Andy Diaz at 926-1785 or 1786, or Ruben Dominguez at 926-1217 or ruben.dominguez@robins.af.mil.

A Breast Cancer Awareness Walk/Run, presented by the Health and Wellness Center, Civilian Health Promotion Service, and 78th Services Division, will be held Oct. 14, 11 a.m. - noon, at the Base Gym outside track. In case of inclement weather, the walk will be held on the inside track. Refreshments and giveaways will follow the walk. To register, call 327-8032/8031 before Oct. 7.

A banquet in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Observation month will be held Oct. 15 from 6 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. at the Enlisted Club. For more information including ticket price, call Miriam Rodriguez or Gopi Weldon at 926-7249.

The 542nd Combat Sustainment Wing will hold a family picnic Oct. 22 in Robins Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for 542nd CSW employees and their family members. There will be activities for the whole family including softball, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, moon walk, disc jockey, balloon toss, clown, face painting, and a scavenger hunt with GPS equipment. There will also be a special appearance by McGruff the Crime Dog and the Warner Robins Fire Department's Spenders and Droops. Tickets are \$2 for adults. Children under 12 are free. Visit the 542nd CSW intranet webpage for further details.

A Veteran's Day Celebration will be held Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park in Cordele, with a ceremony at 3 p.m. In attendance will be the Heart of Georgia Pipes and Drums, Crisp County High School JROTC Color Guard, and guest speaker Tommy Clack, Vietnam veteran. A car and truck show will be held Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. A radio-controlled model airplane fly-in will be held Nov. 12 and 13. For more information, call 229-276-2371.

Tickets for the Fox Theatre and Radio City Christmas Spectacular featuring The Rockettes are available at ITT for \$60. Shows are scheduled for 11 a.m. on Nov. 19

ONGOING

A new Air Force Club Membership card will be reissued to current club card members. The new card depicts the Thunderbirds and incorporates the Chase logo and the Services logo and will retain the same rate, terms and benefits. Members will receive an invitation to enroll in the Military Free Cash program upon receipt of the new card. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-4515 or the officers' club at 926-2670.

The overflow locker room is available Monday – Friday, 5 a.m. – 7 p.m., for men only. There is no towel service (bring your own) and lockers are available for daily use only. Restrooms are available at the HAWC during 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

A Pine Oaks Golf Course open house is open to all members of Middle Georgia golf courses Monday through Friday. Cost is \$18 and participants must show valid membership card. For more information call 926-4103.

Air Force Materiel Command Texas Hold 'Em tournaments continue at the Robins Enlisted Club Sept. 24 with sign up at 12:30 p.m. Games start at 1 p.m. This is free to club members and is \$15 for nonmembers. For more information call 926-4515.

Join the Enlisted Club or Officers' Club between now and Nov. 30 and you could win \$1,000. New and current member winners will receive a \$1,000 credit towards their club card account. For more information call the Enlisted Club, 926-4515, or Officers' Club, 926-2670.

To have an item listed, send it to Amanda Smith at amanda.smith@robins. af.mil by 4 p.m. Monday prior to the Friday of intended publication.

NOW PLAYING



Adult tickets are \$3.50; children 11 years old and younger tickets are \$2. Movies start at 7:30 p.m., unless

noted. For

more infor-

mation, call

the Base

Theater at

926-2919.



TODAY

Valiant Animated

A lowly wood pigeon named Valiant overcomes his small size to become a hero in Great Britain's Royal Air Force Homing Pigeon Service during World War II. The RHPS advanced the Allied cause by flying vital messages about enemy movements across the English Channel, whilst evading brutal attacks by the enemy's Falcon Brigade. (G) 76 minutes

SATURDAY

Four BrothersMark Wahlberg, Andre Benjamin

After their adoptive mother is murdered during a grocery store hold-up, the Mercer brothershotheaded Bobby, hard-edged Angel, family man and businessman Jeremiah, and hard rocking Jack—reunite to take the matter of her death into their own hands. As they track down the killer, they quickly realize that their old ways of doing business have new consequences. R (strong violence, pervasive language and some sexual content) 109 minutes (No one under 17 admitted without an accompanied parent or guardian)

UPCOMING

UndiscoveredPell James, Steven Strait

An aspiring New York model falls in love with a struggling musician when they suddenly cross paths on the subway. PG-13 (sexual material including dialogue, partial nudity, language and drug content) 97 minutes

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic

Catholic masses are held at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and at a 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Islamic

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

Jewish

Jewish service is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

Orthodox Christian

St. Innocent Orthodox Church service is at the chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Protestant

General services take place Sundays at 11 a.m. The service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and format. Protestant inspirational services take place Sundays at 8 a.m. Contemporary services take place 11 a.m. Sundays at the Base Theater. This service is informal and includes traditional and contemporary styles of music and worship.

The chapel helps with spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

Extended family reaches out to family in need

By LANORRIS ASKEW lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

Just days before Hurricane Katrina made landfall devastating the Gulf Coast region, Latifa Johnson gathered her children, packed a few belongings and trekked from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., to the safety of Robins.

What the wife and mother of three – ages 12, 6 and 4 – thought would be at most a weekend stay has since turned into a three-week wait in an unfamiliar area where she depends on the kindness of those who, less than a month ago, were complete strangers.

"We thought we'd be home in a couple of days," she said seated in the Robins temporary lodging facility where she awaits word of a possible return home date. "We packed enough clothing for three days and told my husband we'd see him on Monday."

After watching television reports of the damage to her home base and city she was desperate to contact her husband, an air traffic controller with the 81st Operational Support Flight. To do so she sought the help of the 78th Operational Support Squadron here.

"Since my husband is an air traffic controller at Keesler, I was reluctant to call anyone else so I called them to see if they could help," said Mrs. Johnson.

Because the DSN lines were the only communication lines working and contact with the tower was nearly impossible, they were her best shot. And, although that initial call was simply for help contacting her husband, it resulted in much more.

Twenty minutes after she hung up the phone, Master Sgt. Renee Jackson was on her way over with words of comfort, food, clothing and toys for the kids

"It was really nice," said Mrs. Johnson. "Not so much for the material things, but just knowing that you're not alone and that someone kind of sympathizes with you."

Sergeant Jackson said the 78th OSS is a family that takes



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Latifah Johnson surprised members of the 78th OSS in the traffic control tower Friday, Sept. 16 with a cake to show her appreciation.

care of family.

"When we heard that one of our own was in need, everyone stepped up to the plate and assisted the Johnsons during this trying time," she said. "Today all our Airmen understand that someday this might be them and hope that other members of the OSS organization would step up and help them."

Mrs. Johnson said she has no idea how long her family will be here, but Robins has made her feel at home away from home. In the midst of her struggle she reached out to those who had supported her in the best way she could. In a surprise gesture, she climbed to the top of the OSS tower Sept. 16 to deliver treats to the squadron members.

"The tower appreciates Mrs. Johnson's generous heart because we see how little people have left and the hard times of trying to replace what was lost and get their lives back to some kind of normalcy," said Sergeant Jackson on behalf of the squadron. "Mrs. Johnson will always be a part of the 78th OSS and we will help her in anything she or anyone else might need."

As she and others wait, Mrs. Johnson said they must be strong for their children.

"You can't show your children your true feelings," she said "You have to get up every morning with a smile. When they're

asleep, that's when your brain seems not to rest – you're calling and dealing with the insurance and trying to get your medical files – you just go from hurdle to hurdle."

One giant hurdle they must overcome is the loss of their brand new home. Just days before the storm hit Mrs. Johnson and her family had just finished moving their belongings into a much awaited home of their own.

"We'd been building the house since January and had been anticipating moving in for seven months," she said. "We'd finally closed on the house, moved all of our stuff in and were concentrating on the final inspection for our base housing. Two days later we had to leave."

Their dream home is now considered uninhabitable, as is much of the severely damaged on-base housing at Keesler.

"There are still curfews, the commissary is closed, so is the BX and the hospital," she said. "They are telling us to sit tight and wait."

She said the insecurity is awful.

"It's not so much the house, but not knowing what's going to happen," she said. "Not being with my husband is the worst. The family is divided and the kids are asking for their father all of the time. Even though he calls when he can, it's hard being separated and the kids feel so disrupted."

The experience with Robins has been a good one though. In spite of being uprooted she said the people and services at Robins have been top-notch.

"We were some of the first evacuees to arrive here, and I was very surprised at how quickly everyone responded," she said. "Even though they weren't prepared for us at first they were able to get the children in to school very quickly. It took two or three days and everything was rolling in an effort to give some sense of normalcy. I was very grateful for that."

Although her days have their dark points like dealing with the insurance company, she said the atmosphere here makes it a little bit easier.

"Everyone is very friendly," she said. "I never remembered names at my base, but in this situation I'm remembering everyone's name who has helped me out."

She said that includes the sergeant in Finance, to the staff at the Family Support and Tricare and even the bagger at the commissary.

"This is an awesome base and if I could stay here I definitely would," she said. "I'd pick this over Hawaii or any other base. I told my husband I'd have no problem retiring here."

Guardsman selected as ESSO

Lt. Col. Murray Hansen of Warner Robins was selected as Executive Support Staff Officer for Headquarters, Georgia Air National Guard. The announcement was made by Major Gen. Scott Hammond, commander of the Georgia Air National Guard.

Colonel Hansen is currently assigned to the 116th Air Control Wing, Robins, as the Operations Support Flight director of operations. He is rated as a navigator in the B-52 and B-1 aircraft and serves as an air battle manager in

the E-8 Joint STARS aircraft. He has more than 17 years of combined active and Air Guard service and is a veteran of Desert Storm flying 11 combat sorties in the B-52. He is married with three children and one grandson.

In his new position, Hansen, a nine-year veteran of the Georgia Air National Guard and a 22-year veteran of the Air Force will coordinate all daily administrative management duties for the Georgia Air National Guard.



and Jeffrey had a score of 303.

Above: Craig Mills of Luke Air Force Base gets himself out of the sand at the 9th hole at Pine Oaks Golf Course.



Left: Jeff Kritsberg from Offutt Air Force Base, lines up his

next shot on the 9th hole at Pine Oaks golf course during the Air Force Golf Training Camp.

AIR FORCE GOLF TRAINING CAMP

Top golfers advance to Armed Forces Golf Championship

Twenty-nine golfers competed in the Air Force Golf Training Camp held at Pine Oaks Golf Course at Robins Sept. 13-16. The top six men and three women advanced to the Armed Forces Golf Championship in Parris Island, S.C., held Sept. 20 through today.

U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP
Pictured left are members of the Air Force Golf team who advanced
to the Armed Forces Golf Championship. Front row, left to right:
Amy Rongey, Robins Air Force Base; Linda Jeffery, Little Rock Air
Force Base; Tammy Garcia, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base; Arnell
Garza, Fairchild Air Force Base; Back row: Mike Membrila, Robins
Air Force Base; Ben Leestma, Eglin Air Force Base; Chris Mcilwain,
Robins; Robert Campbell, Moody Air Force Base; and Mark
Gardiner, Scott Air Force Base **Gardiner**, Scott Air Force Base.





Some Airmen can carry over 'use or lose' leave

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- Airmen who were recalled from or unable to take annual leave this past year for reasons such as support for contingency operations will be allowed to accumulate more than the normal 60 days after the fiscal year ends.

Special leave accrual carry over also applies to the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members who performed full-time training or other full-time duties for more than 29 days.

Airmen who lost leave may carry the following leave amounts:

- ▶ Up to 120 days for Airmen deployed or assigned to hostile fire/imminent danger pay areas;
- ▶ Up to 90 days for Airmen who deployed or were assigned to other than hostile fire/imminent danger locations; and
- ▶ Up to 90 days for Airmen impacted by significant and unforeseen operational mission requirements as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

Additionally, Airmen who lost leave as a consequence of assignments in support of contingency operations as of Sept. 30, 2005, are authorized restoration of the leave they lost.

"This program is meant to enable people to take leave they've earned," said Tech. Sgt. Deitra Mathis, NCOIC, field operations, leave and commander's support staff programs at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "For the program to work as planned, though, those affected need to take not only the leave they are carrying over now, but also the leave they will earn during the next fiscal year, or they may lose leave next year."

Those Airmen who meet the criteria for having excess leave should contact their local military personnel flight, customer service element for additional guidance such as eligibility to carry over leave beyond the following fiscal year.

End-of-year retirees asked to call retirement specialist by Oct. 14

Employees planning to retire at the end of December 2005 or the beginning of January 2006 should call his or her servicing retirement specialist no later than Oct. 14, 2005, to have his retirement application prepared in a timely manner.

This does not apply to those who are planning to retire any other time of the year.

Once a person has officially notified his retirement specialist, he or she will be provided a retirement application package and scheduled for a group retirement session. Completed application packages should be brought to that session. Due to a large number of retirements at that time each year, retirement group sessions for the end-of-year retirements will be scheduled during November.

The Oct. 14 notification date ensures ample processing time for retirement applications, reducing chances of a delay in receipt of retirement pay. For more information, contact servicing Retirement Specialists Delores Stephens or Cheri Coklow at 926-5307.

READ THE ROBINS REV-UP ONLINE

www.robins.af.mil /pa/revup-online/



U.S. Air Force photo by MASTER SGT. DALE HANSON

From Katrina to Rita

ELLINGTON FIELD, Texas -- After 19 days of supporting the Hurricane Katrina relief effort in New Orleans, Airmen from the 147th Fighter Wing return home Sept. 19 to prepare for Hurricane Rita. Approximately 100 Air **National Guardsmen from** the 147th conducted security patrols and assisted in door-to-door recovery operations while in New Orleans. If Hurricane Rita makes a damaging landfall, a base spokesman said the Airmen will stand poised to render help in the Houston area.

Concert series nears end





U.S. Air Force photos by **SUE SAPP**

Above: Tech Sgt. Bill Granger (left), Staff Sgt. Marcel Marchetti (center) and Staff Sgt. Eric Frank of the Blue Notes add some brass to a jazz tune during the band's Sept. 20 concert at the Museum of Aviation amphitheatre. The free concert was part of a series presented by The Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve and the Museum of Aviation. At left: Staff Sgt. Frances Wright sings and dances for the crowd.

Reserve Generation will perform the final concert of the series Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the amphitheatre. They will play contemporary adult hits, rhythm and blues, jazz, country, hits from the 1960s, and selections from Billboard Magazine's Hot 100 including rock, rap and hip-hop. Concert goers are encouraged to come early and bring a picnic, lawn chairs and blankets. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Century of Flight Hangar.